

VI.

Public Buildings

The reader will notice that in the present chapter no mention is made of the churches, hospitals, educational or benevolent institutions, historical monuments or tablets, markets, or buildings connected with the harbor. The writer thought advisable to devote special chapters to these different features. For the present, let us consider just the governmental, municipal and commercial buildings of Montreal.

It might be said that the Place d'Armes is the very heart of Montreal. There we find the Bank of Montreal, one of the greatest financial institutions of the world, and which is considered a masterpiece of architecture. It is built in the Corinthian style and has a frontage on St. James street of over 100 feet and extends over Fortification street in the rear, down to Craig street. The entrance is by a portico, supported by immense columns of cut stone. These are surmounted by a pediment. The sculpture on the pediment is 52 feet long, and weighs over 25 tons, there being twenty different pieces. The figures are colossal, 8 feet in height for a human figure, and are placed at an elevation of 50 feet from the ground.

Adjoining the Bank of Montreal, at the corner of St. James and St. Francois Xavier streets, is the Post Office, a building of grey limestone, with a frontage on St. James street of 129 feet. The style of architecture is modern Italian. The central tower contains a large illuminated clock, with immense dial plate. The whole building costs about \$800,000.

Then, at the corner of St. James and Place d'Armes, there is the New York Life Insurance Building with magnificent view